

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 862

By Ketron

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the pastor and congregation of historic Bethel United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body recognize those venerable religious institutions and their congregations who, through their unflagging capacity for love, dedication of spirit, and faith in God, strive to enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, one such dynamic community of faith is Bethel United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, the pastor and members of which are celebrating the church's 200th anniversary and the 131st anniversary of the current church building this year; and

WHEREAS, Reverend Ebenezer Macgowan (February 17, 1767 - April 30, 1850) was the founding father of Bethel Church; one of the early pioneers of Rutherford County, he was born in England, migrated to Virginia, and was ordained by Bishop Asbury before settling in the area; and

WHEREAS, in 1818, Reverend Macgowan donated land for a log meeting house that was built on the current church site on Sulphur Springs Road in Murfreesboro; this meeting house was named "Bethel"; and

WHEREAS, the present church structure was built in 1887, with 1,500 people present for the June dedication; and

WHEREAS, Bethel also included a community cemetery and a public school that was in operation until 1970; Reverend Macgowan lies at rest on the site; and

WHEREAS, God has blessed Bethel United Methodist Church miraculously during its illustrious history, and its congregation gives thanks to their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for His past and continual blessings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize the pastor and congregation of historic Bethel United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro, thank the good people of this outstanding congregation for their notable service to their Lord and the State of Tennessee, and wish them much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.